The Declaration of the Nobility, Gentry, and Commonalty at the Rendezvous at Nottingham, *Nov.* 22. 1688.

We the Nobility, Gentry, and Commonalty of these Northern Counties Assembled together at Nottingham, for the defence of the Laws, Religion, and Properties, According to those free-born Liberties and Privileges, descended to us from our Ancestors, as the undoubted Birthright of the Subjects of this Kingdom of England, (not doubting but the Usurpers and Invaders of our Rights will misrepresent us to the rest of the Nation in the most malicious dress they can put upon us) do here unanimously think it our Duty to declare to the rest of our Protestant Fellow-Subjects the Grounds of our present Undertaking.

We are by Innumerable Precedents undoubtedly, that the bare Fundamentals of our Religion, Liberties, and Properties

ties are about to be rooted out by our late Jesuitical Privy Council, as hath been of late too apparent, 1. By the King's Dispencing with all the establisht Laws at his pleasure. 2 By displacing all Officers out of all Offices of Trust and Advantage, and placing others in their Room that are known Papists, deservedly made incapable by the Establisht Laws of our Land. 3. By destroying the Charters of most Corporations in the Land. 4. By discouraging all Persons that are not Papists, preferring such as turn to Popery. 5. By displacing all honest and Conscientious Judges, unless they would, contrary to their Consciences, declare that to be Law which was meerly arbitrary, 6. By branding all men with the name of Rebels that but offered to justifie the Laws in a legal Course against the arbitrary proceedings of the King, or any of his corrupt Ministers. 7. By burthening the Nation with an Army, to maintain the violation of the Rights of the Subjects. 8. By discountenancing the Establisht Reformed Religion. 9. By forbidding the Subjects the benefit of Petitioning, and construing

ſtruing them Libellers: ſo rendring the Laws a Nole of War, to ſerve their arbitrary Ends: And many more ſuch like, too long here to enumerate.

We being thus ſadly ſenſible of the Arbitrary, and Tyrannical Government that is by the influence of Jeſuitical Councels coming upon us, do unanimouſly declare, That not being Willing to deliver our Poſterity over to ſuch a condition of popery and Slavery, as the aforeſaid Oppreſſions inevitably threaten; We will, to the utmoſt of our power, oppoſe the ſame, by joining with the Prince of ORANGE, (Whom we hope God Almighty hath ſent to relcue us from the Oppreſſions aforeſaid) will uſe our utmoſt Endeavours for the recovery of our almoſt ruin'd Laws, Liberties, and Religion, and herein we hope all good Proteſtant Subjects will with their Lives and Fortunes be aſſiſtant to us, and not be bugbear'd with the opprobrious terms of Rebels, by which they would fright us to become perfect Slaves to their tyrannical Impoſitions and Uſurpations; for we abhor that

Ayes, that no rational and unbyassed person will judge it Rebellion to defend our Laws and Religion, Which all our Princes have Sworn at their Coronations; Which Oath, how well it hath been observed of late, we desire a Free Parliament may have the Consideration of.

We owne it Rebellion to resist a King that Governs by Laws but he was allwayes accounted a Tyrant that made his will the Law, and to resist such an one, We justly esteem no Rebellion, but a necessary Defence; and in this consideration, we doubt not of all honest mens assistance, and humbly hope for, and implore the great God's protection, that turneth the hearts of his people as pleaseth him best, it having been observed, That people can never be of one mind without his Inspiration: Which hath in all Ages confirmed that Observation, Vox Populi est Vox Dei.

The present restoring of Charters, and repealing the Oppressing and unjust Judgement given on Magdalen Colledge Fellows, is plain, are but to still the people, like Plums

to

o Children, by deceiving them for a while; but if they shal by this Stratagem be fooled, till this present storm that threatens the Papists be past, assoon as they shall be re-settled, the former Oppression will be put on with greater vigour; but We hope in vain is the Net spread in the sight of the Birds: For (1) The Papists old Rule is, [That Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks,] as they term Protestants, tho' the Popish Religion is the greatest Heresie. (2.) Queen Mary's so ill observing her promises to the Suffolkmen, that helpt her to her Throne. And above all, (3.) The Pope's dispensing with the breach of Oaths, Treaties, or Promises, at his pleasure, when it makes for the Service of Holy Church, as they term it. These, we say, are such convincing Reasons to hinder us from giving Credit to the aforesaid Mock-shews of Redresse, that We think our selves bound in Conscience to rest in no Security that shall not be approved by a freely Elected Parliament; to whom, under God, We refer our Cause.

His Grace the

Arch-Bishop of Canterbury's ADDRESS to his MAJESTY,

For the Suppression of Monasteries, Pryeries, Nunneries, and other Popish Seminaries, or allowing any General *Tollera-tion* to the *Roman Catholicks* of *England*.

May it please your Majesty,

I Have been too long silent, and am afraid by my silence I have neglected the duty of the place it hath pleased God to call me unto, and your Majesty to place me in: But now, I humbly crave leave, I may discharge my Conscience towards God, and my duty to your Majesty; and therefore, I beseech you freely to give me leave to deliver my self, and then let your Majesty do with me what you please. Your Majesty hath propounded a Toleration of Religion, I beseech you take into your consideration what your Act is, what the Consequence may be. By your Act you labour to set up the most damnable and Heretical Doctrine of the Church of Rome, *the Whore of* Babylon: *How hateful it will be to God, and grievous to your good Subjects, the Professors of the Gospel, That your Majesty who hath often disputed, should now shew your self a patron of these wicked Doctrines, which your Pen hath told the World, and your Conscience tells your Self, are Superstitious, Idolatrous, and Detestable: And hereunto I add what you have done in sending the Prince into* Spain *without consent of your People: And although you have a Charge and Interest in the*

the Prince, as Son of your Flesh; yet have the People a greater Son of the Kingdom, upon whom next after your Majesty are their E fixed, and welfare depends; and so tenderly is his going apprehen as (I believe it) however his return may be safe; yet the drau of him into this Action, so dangerous to himself, so desperate to Kingdom, will not pass away unquestioned, unpunished. Besides, t Toleration which you endeavour to set up by your Proclamation, not be done without a Parliament, unless your Majesty will let Subjects see that you will take unto your self ability to throw down Laws of your Land at your Pleasure. What dread consequence t things may draw afterward, I beseech your Majesty to consider, and have all, lest by this Toleration and discountenancing of the true R fession of the Gospel, wherewith God hath blessed us, and this Kingd hath so long flourished under it, your Majesty do not draw upon t Kingdom in general, and your self in particular, Gods heavy wra and indignation.

Thus in discharge of my duty towards God, to your Majesty, and t place of my calling, I have taken boldness to be a Solicitor to my Conscience. Now Sir, do what you please with me.

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